

ESPO Meeting Notes

November 8, 2017

1. Welcome Remarks and Introductions: Anja Lehmann

Anja thanked everyone for their support of the wonderful Halloween event. She reminded the group of our upcoming events, the Book Fair and Bake Sale. Anja thanked everyone for making these ESPO events great successes that benefit our children.

2. Coordinating Committee Reports

- a. *Pizza Lunch*: Maria Bichakjian reported that everything is going well.
- b. *Book Drive*: Anja shared that the 5th graders organized an effort to send books to Texas. The school is looking into other potential disaster relief efforts.

3. Event Chair Reports

- a. *Teacher Conference Dinners*: Lori Pearson
The dinners were well supplied and much appreciated!
- b. *Halloween*: Jamie Sinha and Lisa Ranzini
Tremendous effort and many thanks to Jamie and team!
- c. *Book Fair*: Elaine Mar and Terry Chang
Coming up on Sunday, November 12. Families are encouraged to attend. Six authors will be at the Book Fair. There will also be performances from several grades. Emerson families can purchase gift cards as part of the Book Fair and you can shop during the following week (Emerson will get 25% credit). Can shop online for credit as well. Teacher wish lists available.
- d. *Bake Sale*: Elizabeth Caswell and Janine Huber
The Bake Sale will be held on Tuesday November 21, in conjunction with Grandfriends day. We will be accepting donations and setting up on Monday, November 20. Please consider signing up to help with packaging and setup on Monday. Also need help during sale on November 21. Separate table for food allergy friendly products. Please use ingredients list to indicate allergens. The beneficiary of Bake Sale proceeds is the new Emerson Innovation Lab.

4. Committee Chair Reports

- a. *Emerson Cares*: Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson
We have welcomed Jill back with a gift.
- b. *Anti-idling*: Caroline Begola
Still brainstorming potential anti-idling efforts.
- c. *Green*: Maria Bichajian

- Excited to see new and improved ESPO recycling initiatives.
 - Working towards making events greener by using recyclable products when possible (see Anja's newsletter).
 - Also looking to work with administration to reduce, reuse and recycle at school, including working with middle school on new initiatives.
 - Considering making this part of Junior National Honor Society in middle school.
 - Mike Wilson works with lower school kids on recycling efforts. Might be able to expand on this.
 - Please let Maria and Anja know if you have any ideas and want to get more involved.
- d. *Communications*: Kelly Richardson
Working to put out information on bulletin board so families know what's going on with ESPO. Will also be adding fun facts (e.g. number of volunteers). Send Kelly any information you want to share.
- e. *Box Tops*: Jodi Wilkins
We receive Box Tops checks twice a year. We have submitted 2,600 box tops and will receive \$260.

5. Emerson Development

- a. *Annual Fund*: Julie Seagraves
- i. Please shop with Smile.Amazon.com and designate Emerson to receive part of the sale.
 - ii. Julie shared two stories of Emerson alums, their memories of Emerson and their feedback that Emerson provided a great preparation for high school and beyond. She also shared that we have sent care packages to Emerson grads who are starting college this year. Packages included notes from Emerson students.
 - iii. Your Annual fund gifts make Emerson this special place and support financial aid opportunities. Goal is to get to 75% of families making annual fund gifts or pledge by Thanksgiving. Board of Trustees is putting together a challenge gift for people who haven't donated in the past. Their gifts will be matched.
- b. *Auction*: Lorna Hildebrandt
- i. Please mark your calendars for the Emerson Auction on Friday, March 9, 2018 at Barton Hills Country Club.
 - ii. The theme for this year's auction is Enchanted Storybook Soiree. The Decorations team has already begun working!
 - iii. Michelle Weaver is our Parent Director. Look for the Auction Volunteer signup coming out in newsletter.

6. New Business

No new business reported.

ESPO Speaker: Lisa Wilson, Calling All Makers! Design Thinking and Emerson Innovations Lab

Lisa Wilson joined the ESPO meeting to talk about the new Emerson Innovations Lab. In 13 days, we will have a soft opening for the new innovation space. It will be up and running for Grandparents and Special Friends day.

Lisa showed a video, Design Thinking Mode by John Spencer, to introduce us to some of the ideas involved. Key ideas include:

Empowering students

- Tap into student interests
- Maker projects & design challenges
- Inspiring possibilities, world-changing opportunities
- Wonder—the side effect of Design Thinking

Building Soft Skills

- Self paced and collaborative
- Self-assessing progress and learning
- Risk-taking and failing forward
- Develop resilience & flexible thinking
- Critical consuming, designing and innovating through empathy

Shared examples of Small Problems Solved (Pringle hook to get Pringles out of can) and Global issues tackled (garbage collecting coastline in water)

What is Design Thinking? It's Creative Problem Solving:

- Notice problem
- Empathize with consumer
- Define problem
- Ideate—brain storming
- Prototype
- Test
- Reflect

At the end of the meeting, Lisa shared an example of the Design Thinking process for the meeting participants to experience. The group was challenged to design a balloon-propelled car.